

## How can babies be safe from getting hepatitis B (HBV)?



If a test shows that a pregnant woman has HBV in her blood, her baby can get this virus at birth. Babies born to women who have HBV need a shot of:

- hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and hepatitis B vaccine **WITHIN TWELVE HOURS OF BIRTH**
- a second shot of hepatitis B vaccine at one to two months of age
- a third shot at or after six months of age
- a blood test three to nine months after the last shot to make sure that they are safe from getting the hepatitis B virus

If pregnant women don't have this disease, their babies will need a shot of:

- hepatitis B vaccine before leaving the hospital
- a second shot at one to two months of age
- a third shot at or after six months of age

## Is the vaccine safe?

The hepatitis B vaccine is very safe. The most common side effect is soreness at the place where the shot was given.

Before babies are given the HBV vaccine, their parents should be given a form called *Hepatitis B, What You Need To Know*. This form gives information about the vaccine. Parents are asked to read the form and then talk with the doctor or nurse if they have questions.

## Should older children get the hepatitis B vaccine?

All children and teenagers should get the hepatitis B vaccine. Parents can talk to their children's doctor or nurse about getting the vaccine.

## Should anyone else get the shots?

People should get the hepatitis B vaccine if they:

- live with someone who has hepatitis B
- have more than one sexual partner
- inject drugs
- come into contact with blood at their jobs
- have chronic liver disease

## More information

For more information, parents can call their children's doctor, local health department, or the Michigan Department of Community Health at **1-800-964-4487** or **517-335-9443**. In southeast Michigan call **313-456-4432**.

## PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN TODAY BY HAVING THEM GET THEIR HEPATITIS B SHOTS!

Michigan Department  
of Community Health



Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor  
Janet Olszewski, Director

MDCH is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Services and Programs Provider.  
100,000 printed at 3.9 cents each with a total cost of \$3,905.69.

Rev. 9/04



# HEPATITIS B:

## What Parents Need to Know



With special information  
for pregnant women



Hepatitis B is a disease caused by a virus that infects the liver. People often show no signs of having the virus. Most people who get the virus get better in a few months, but some people carry the virus in their blood all their lives (they are called carriers). In the United States, about 78,000 people get the hepatitis B virus (HBV) every year, and there are about one million carriers.



**Babies and young children can get hepatitis B by coming in contact with blood or body fluids from their mothers or from other people who have the virus. This may occur at birth if the mother has hepatitis B.**

Children may get hepatitis B if they live with people who have this disease. Babies and children who get hepatitis B are much more likely to become carriers than adults who get hepatitis B. This may increase the chance of a child getting liver disease later in life.

### How do you get hepatitis B (HBV)?

You can get it:



- at birth, if your mother has the virus

- by having sex or sharing needles with someone who has the virus
- by sharing personal things like razors and toothbrushes with a person who has the virus

One out of three people with HBV does not know how he or she got the virus.

### How do you know if you have hepatitis B (HBV)?

Some people who get HBV feel tired and sick. Sometimes their skin or eyes become yellow.

Many people who have the virus never feel or look sick. They may not even know they have it. They can still get liver disease, and they can still pass the virus to others.

The only way for people to know for sure if they have HBV is to get a blood test.



**All women should be tested for hepatitis B during EACH of their pregnancies.**

#### Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule, 2004

	Birth	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months	6-15 Months	6-23 Months	12-15 Months	4-6 Years	11-12 Years
Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP)		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Polio <sup>2</sup>		✓	✓		✓			✓	
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib) <sup>2</sup>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Hepatitis B (Hep B) <sup>1,2</sup>	✓	✓			✓				
Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)							✓	✓	
Varicella (chickenpox)							✓		
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV7) <sup>2</sup>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Influenza (flu) <sup>3</sup>						✓			
Tetanus and diphtheria booster (Td)									✓

<sup>1</sup>Infants born to women who have HBV must get a shot of HBIG along with the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth.

<sup>2</sup>Alternative schedules are possible. Consult your provider for details.

<sup>3</sup>Influenza vaccine is also recommended for all children over 6 months of age with high-risk conditions and all household contacts of high-risk groups.

